AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): Apparatus for predicting failure in a system, the apparatus comprising:

a measurement unit for repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of said system, wherein the disorder indicator represents a non-designated output of said system, the non-designated output represents waste of said system, and

a comparator for comparing obtained measurements of said disorder indicator with a predetermined statistical description of said disorder indicator to determine whether a deviation is present between presently measured values of said disorder indicator and said predetermined statistical description, said apparatus being operable to issue a failure prediction upon determination that such a deviation is statistically significant,

wherein said disorder indicator provides non-specific failure indications.

2. (original): Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said measurement unit is operable to measure said disorder indicator via a communication link, thereby to monitor remotely located systems.

3. - 16. (canceled).

17. (original): Apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a communication unit for alerting a call center in the event of a failure prediction.

18. (currently amended): Apparatus according to claim 1, applicable to the system, without regard to a level of complexity of said system.

19. (previously presented): Apparatus for predicting failure in a system, the apparatus comprising:

a measurement unit for repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of said system, wherein the disorder indicator represents a non-designated output of said system, and the non-designated output represents waste of said system,

a statistical unit for building up a statistical description of said disorder indicator using measurements taken via said measurement unit during a training phase of operation of said system, and

a system thresholder, for using said statistical description to apply thresholds to said disorder indicator to predict system failure,

wherein said disorder indicator provides failure indications of general abnormalities.

20. (previously presented): A method of failure prediction comprising:

repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of a system, wherein the disorder indicator represents a non-designated output of said system, and the non-designated output represents waste of said system,

comparing said disorder indicator with a statistical description of idealized behavior of

said disorder indicator,

determining from said comparison whether a deviation is present in behavior of said

disorder indicator, and

issuing an alert in the event of determination of such a deviation being of statistical

significance,

wherein said disorder indicator provides non-specific failure indications based on a top

down approach.

21. (original): Method according to claim 20, wherein said measuring is carried out

remotely.

22. - 35. (canceled).

36. (original): Method according to claim 20, further comprising alerting a call center in

the event of a failure prediction.

37. (currently amended): Method according to claim 20, wherein the method is

applicable to the system without regard to a level of complexity of said system.

38. (currently amended): A method of failure prediction in a software system, the

method comprising:

selecting a measurable indicator of a level of disorder in said software system, wherein

said measurable indicator provides non specific failure indication, and is selected without

detailed knowledge of said software system,

obtaining a statistical description of behavior of said measurable indicator within said

software system,

repeatedly measuring said measurable indicator during operation of said software system,

wherein said measurable indicator represents a non-designated output of said software system,

comparing said ~~disorder~~ measurable indicator with said statistical description,

determining from said comparison whether a deviation is present in behavior of said

~~disorder~~ measurable indicator, and

issuing an alert in the event of determination of such a deviation being of statistical

significance.

39. (currently amended): A data carrier having stored thereon computer executable

instructions which when combined with a general purpose computer is operable to provide:

a measurement unit for repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of a software system,

wherein the disorder indicator represents a non-designated output of said software system and is

a byproduct of operation of said software system, and

a comparator for comparing obtained measurements of said disorder indicator with a

predetermined statistical description of said disorder indicator to determine whether a deviation

is present between presently measured values of said disorder indicator and said predetermined

statistical description, said combination being operable to issue a failure prediction upon

determination that such a deviation is statistically significant.

40. (previously presented): Apparatus for measuring quality of software operating in a

system, the apparatus comprising:

a measurement unit for repeatedly measuring a disorder indicator of said system, wherein

the disorder indicator represents a non-designated output of said system, and the non-designated

output represents waste of said system, and

a comparator for comparing obtained measurements of said disorder indicator with a

predetermined statistical description of said disorder indicator to determine whether a deviation

is present between presently measured values of said disorder indicator and said predetermined

statistical description, said apparatus being operable to issue a quality score of said software

based on an extent of said deviation,

wherein said disorder indicator gives statically viable but non-specific failure indications.

41. (previously presented): A method for predicting failure in a computing system

comprising:

automatically determining a disorder indicator representing waste that said computing

system produces;

repeatedly measuring the disorder indicator of said computing system;

comparing obtained measurements of said disorder indicator with a predetermined

statistical description of said disorder indicator to determine whether a deviation is present

between presently measured values of said disorder indicator and said predetermined statistical

description, wherein said disorder indicator predicts faults that are a result of ill-defined or

unexpected phenomena; and

issuing a failure prediction upon determination that such a deviation is statistically

significant.

42. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said disorder

indicator is determined without any detailed knowledge of said computing system.

43. (previously presented): The method according to claim 42, wherein said disorder

indicator is determined without any detailed knowledge of operation of said computing system.

44. (previously presented): The method according to claim 43, wherein said disorder

indicator is determined without any detailed knowledge of failure modes of said computing

system.

45. (currently amended): The method according to claim 41, wherein said automatically

determining a disorder indicator comprises: observing the computing system for patterns in a

behavior of said computing system that are indicative of faults.

46. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said computing

system is a customized computing system.

47. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein measuring said disorder indicator comprises measuring a number of failure messages, and wherein the deviation is present when an overall number of messages statistically significantly increases.

48. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein measuring said disorder indicator comprises measuring a number of logged faults, and wherein the measured number of logged faults are compared with an average distribution of the logged faults.

49. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein measuring said disorder indicator comprises measuring heat produced by said computing system and an overall load of said computing system, wherein for said comparison said measurement of said produced heat is adjusted based on said measurement of said overall load of said computing system.

50. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein measuring said disorder indicator comprises measuring internal system load produced by a central processing unit and an external system load produced by a messaging signaling unit, wherein for said comparison said measurement of said produced internal system load is adjusted based on said measurement of said external load of said computing system.

51. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein measuring said

disorder indicator comprises measuring an amount of time a system resource is devoted to a

particular task.

52. (previously presented): The method according to claim 41, wherein said computing

system is a local area network system, and wherein in predicting failures said local area network

system uses said disorder indicator in a top down approach.

53. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is

operable to determine whether to issue the failure prediction when the measured disorder

indicator is not a normal distribution pattern.

54. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is

operable to determine whether to provide the non-specific failure indications when said

measured disorder indicator behaves in a surge function pattern.